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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Bruno FLORIN et al.

Application No.: 09/826,393

Group Art Unit: 1651

Filing Date: April 3, 2001

Examiner: Vera AFREMOVA

For: PROCESS FOR THE CRYO-PRESERVATION OF PLANTS

Attorney Docket No.: 88265-4014

REPLY AND AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on February 6, 2002, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a copy of the presently pending claims (Appendix A) and a petition for an extension of time for one (1) month to and include June 6, 2002.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-13.

Please add the following new claims:

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14. (New) A process for the cryo-preservation of a primary explant comprising the step of cryofreezing the primary explant, wherein the primary explant comprises a plant tissue that has been subjected to an induction medium for a time sufficient to induce a primary regenerating tissue, but not a somatic embryo.

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15. (New) The process of claim 14, further comprising a two step incubation of the primary explant, wherein the primary explant is first incubated in a medium containing 0.4 M sucrose followed by incubating the primary explant in a medium containing 1 M sucrose.

16. (New) The process of claim 14, further comprising the step of dehydrating the primary explant prior to cryofreezing.